

EASTER SUNDAY 2019

The First Person Jesus Meets After the Resurrection

When Jesus rose from the dead, did anyone wonder, “Who was the first person he appeared to?” -I bet I know.

“Mother!” Jesus gently greets her, trying not to cause alarm.

“Son, is that you in the flesh?” Mary answers surprised and a little frightened.

Jesus tries to reassure her, “Mother, it’s me. Don’t be frightened!”

“That is what the angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid!’” Mary’s surprise on her face slowly turns to joy.

“I’m not a ghost,” Jesus says teasingly but reassuringly.

“You were dead,” Mary counters, emphasizing ‘were’.

“But now alive,” Jesus says excitedly, and moves closer to her, taking his mother in his arms. “Can a ghost give you a hug?” he gently asks.

Now Mary gently weeps, “My Lord and My God,” she whispers.

Jesus teases her, “Just call me Son,” and then says with a little more tenderness, “Mother.”

“I don’t know what to say?” Mary tells him in bewilderment.

Jesus changes the subject, “I have a message for you.”

“Oh?” Mary responds a little confused. “From whom?”

“From Joseph!” Jesus says, enjoying her reaction.

“Joseph,” she says, with a far-off look. “It’s been a long time, or so it seems.”

“He sends his love. And he asked me to give you a big hug.” So, Jesus gives his mother a bear hug like his father, Joseph. And she weeps again.

“I met your friends, Mr. Mrs. Cleopas on the road. Jesus distracts her with the latest news. “They were heading out of Jerusalem.”

“They’re from Emmaus, you know,” she adds.

“Yes, I had supper with them,” he says with a knowing smile.

“I hope they fed you well?” Mary asks.

“Bread,” he answers and then adds, “and wine.”

“Is that all?” she asks a little concerned.

“It was enough for me,” he says, “Besides, I didn’t stay to eat it. They will certainly remember me the next time they have bread and wine.” Mary looks at him a little quizzically.

“They were so sad, no shocked, that you were killed,” Mary tells him with sadness.

“They are not sad anymore, but still shocked,” Jesus said. “I’m sure they are running back to Jerusalem this morning.”

Changing the subject, again, Jesus tells her, “Mother, I have to go. I will see you again in Jerusalem. John, son of Zebedee, is making arrangements to bring you to Ephesus.”

Suddenly, Mary stood there in an empty room, thinking that she had dreamt it all. But the joy in her heart said otherwise. Besides, her ribs still hurt a little, like when Joseph would give her those bear hugs.